

# Kangaroo Island

21 - 26 September 2027

Just off the Adelaide, SA, coast, Kangaroo Island harbours a unique, diverse wildlife, specialised birds, striking scenery (including remarkable granite formations) and vast tracts of wilderness, protected in many reserves. The dawn chorus at sunrise is something to behold, and walking through the bush is rewarded with a delight of sounds and images from a huge variety of different bird species. Spectacular coastlines harbor an amazing variety of birds and wildlife.

Well-known for its wildlife, Kangaroo Island is home to "Kangaroo Island Kangaroos", Tammar Wallabies, Echidnas, Brush-tailed Possums, Bottle-nosed Dolphins, Australian Sea Lions, Australia

lian and New-Zealand Fur Seals and many of the 250 birds listed for the island can be seen year-round in their natural habitats during our 4-day guided tour. Key birds include the endangered Glossy Black Cockatoo, colonies of Short-tailed Shearwaters, Hooded Plover, Cape Barren Goose, Rock Parrot, the elusive Western Whipbird and the cute Fairy Penguin as well as many sea and land birds.

This all-inclusive guided tour departs from and returns to Adelaide, SA. You will stay on the island and take daily trips out exploring its natural wonders, fascinating habitats, prolific birds and varied wildlife.

## Itinerary

### Day 0: 21 September 2027

#### Arrival in Adelaide

Please arrive in Adelaide on 21 September 2027, in preparation for an early departure tomorrow morning. **Transport, meals and accommodation are your own responsibility today.** We will pick you up from your accommodation in the city centre tomorrow morning. If you're staying elsewhere, please contact us to arrange a central meeting location.

### Day 1: 22 September 2027

#### Fleurieu Peninsula and ferry to Kangaroo Island

The tour commences today after breakfast. You'll be picked up from your hotel and we will travel down the scenic Fleurieu Peninsula, stopping along the way to look at some of the mainland birds such as Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo, Adelaide Rosella and various waterbirds. At the end of the peninsula we will reach Cape Jervis, the departure point for the Kangaroo Island ferry. The ferry takes about 45 minutes to cross, and we may see ocean birds such as Australian Gannet and up to three species of Shearwater during the crossing.

After arrival on the island, we will have lunch as we travel to our accommodation scenically located at the bay of American River where we will be staying for two nights in quality ensuite rooms at the Mercure Kangaroo Island lodge, surrounded by lush bushland.

Once settled in we can head out birding for the rest of the day. The bay across from the lodge often has Black-tailed Native Hens, Latham's Snipe and a host of other bush birds.

In the evening spotlighting in and around the park can be very rewarding with an amazing range of nocturnal animals such as Tammar Wallabies, Koalas and Brown Bandicoots which can all be commonly encountered here.

Overnight: Mercure American River, en-suite rooms

Meals included: L, D

### Day 2: 23 September 2027

#### Cape du Couedic, Seal Bay, American River, and Penneshaw

Today we'll explore the various National Parks which cover many parts of the island. Kangaroo Island offers easy viewing of the rare Cape Bar-



Crested Tern, Koala, Tammar Wallaby, and Cape Barren Goose All photos by Peter Waanders.

ren Goose, and it is also famous for its abundant Koalas and Kangaroo Island Grey Kangaroos (the kangaroo from which the island gets its name). We may also see the Short-beaked Echidna as it forages for ants and termites.

First thing in the morning we'll head down to the south coast in the hope of spying the hard-to-see White-bellied Whipbird and Southern Emu-wren. The coastal scenery here is spectacular and is home to a colony of New Zealand Fur Seals at Cape du Couedic where we'll also find the magnificent Admiral's Arch, a spectacular coastal grotto. We'll allow plenty of time to photograph the various rock formations at Remarkable Rocks and Admiral's Arch while we search the surrounding bush for Crescent, Tawny-crowned and Purple-gaped Honeyeaters. We'll head back to the visitor centre for lunch and then visit the seal colony at Seal Bay.

Next, we're off to the north coast where we hope to see breeding Hooded Plovers on the beach and have our first chance to see the endangered Glossy Black-Cockatoo. Biologists and local landholders have taken steps to expand the breeding opportunities of this species, and its population is slowly growing. Back to American River for another chance of seeing the Glossy Black Cockatoo along with waders, waterbirds, the elusive Nankeen Night-heron and bush birds such as the Beautiful Firetail. We'll have dinner in Penneshaw before visiting the Penguin Centre after sunset for the chance of seeing breeding Little Penguins on a guided tour of their colony.

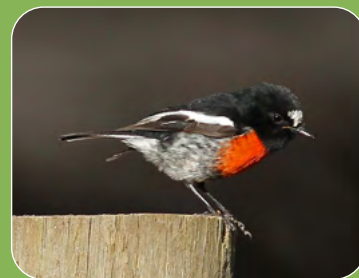
Overnight: Mercure American River, en-suite rooms  
Meals included: B, L, D

### Day 3: 24 September 2027

#### Flexible morning birding, ferry to the mainland, and Murray Estuary

If required, we'll have another search for the Glossy Black Cockatoo or any other birds we may still need before checking out of our accommodation and heading back toward Kingscote. We'll look for breeding Eastern Ospreys before heading to Penneshaw to take the ferry back to the mainland. We'll keep an eye out for Short-tailed Shearwaters and Australian Gannets that may be foraging above the ocean.

Not far from here is the estuary of Australia's largest river, the Murray, and we'll skirt around this huge lagoon checking out various sites en-route. One of these sites is Tolderol Reserve, which is one of South Australia's best kept birding secrets. A series of small lagoons with varying water levels harbor an amazing variety of water-dependent bird species, including Caspian and Whiskered Tern, numerous migratory



*New-Holland Honeyeater, New Zealand Fur Seals, Glossy Black-Cockatoo, Scarlet Robin, and Eastern Osprey. All photos by Peter Waanders.*

waders—Sharp-tailed Sandpiper is common, there are usually a few Pectoral Sandpipers around, and more often than not, some rarity turns up here. Ducks, swans, grebes, herons, egrets and the rare, elusive Australian Bittern also live here. One of the cutest 'little brown jobs' is the Golden-headed Cisticola and with luck we'll see a few of these little gems. At the end of the day we arrive in Meningie, on the far eastern end of the estuary, at the start of the longest salt lagoon in the world: the Coorong National Park.

Overnight: Lakeview Motel, Meningie, en-suite room  
Meals included: B, L, D

#### Day 4: 25 September 2027 Coorong National Park, and return to Adelaide

This morning we'll head into the Coorong National Park to see the stunning coastal scenery—salt pans, tranquil lagoons, huge sand dunes—and looking for birds such as Purple-gaped Honeyeater, Southern Scrub-Robin, the elusive and local specialty Rufous Bristlebird and who knows, with much luck a Malleefowl.

Stopping on the way back to Adelaide in the scenic, lush Adelaide Hills we look for a variety of colourful parrots including the Adelaide Rosella, Scarlet Robin, Brown and White-throated Treecreeper, Owlet Nightjar on its daytime roost, White-winged Chough, many species of honeyeaters and with luck, the beautiful Diamond Firetail (finch). We arrive back in Adelaide sometime in the afternoon.

After breakfast tomorrow (included) you'll need to make your own onward transport arrangements. Or why not continue on our Highlands of Southern Australia Tour? Read on here: <https://bellbirdtours.com/highlights-of-southern-australia/>.

Overnight: Hotel in Adelaide, en-suite room  
Meals included: B, L, D

#### Day 5: 26 September 2027 Departure or continuation on Highlights of South Australia

Meals included: B



Western Whipbird, Crimson Rosella, Black-faced Cormorant, Fairy Tern, and Australian Pelican. All photos by Peter Waanders.

## QUICK OVERVIEW

### SCHEDULED DATES

Kangaroo Island Tour: 21 - 26 September 2027

Tour commences with a pickup from your hotel (own arrangements) in Adelaide after breakfast on 22 September 2027. Please arrive on or before 21 September 2027. Tour finishes with breakfast on 26 September 2027. Please depart on or after 26 September.

Or why not continue on our 6-day Highlights of Southern Australia Tour (25 Sep - 1 Oct 2027) which departs that same morning of September 26th from Adelaide: <https://bellbirdtours.com/highlights-of-southern-australia/>.

### STARTING IN

Adelaide, South Australia

### FINISHING IN

Adelaide, South Australia

### GROUP SIZE

Minimum 4, maximum 9 participants.

### BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 0: 21 September 2027: Arrival in Adelaide

Day 1: 22 September 2027: Fleurieu Peninsula and ferry to Kangaroo Island

Day 2: 23 September 2027: Cape du Couedic, Seal Bay, American River, and Penneshaw

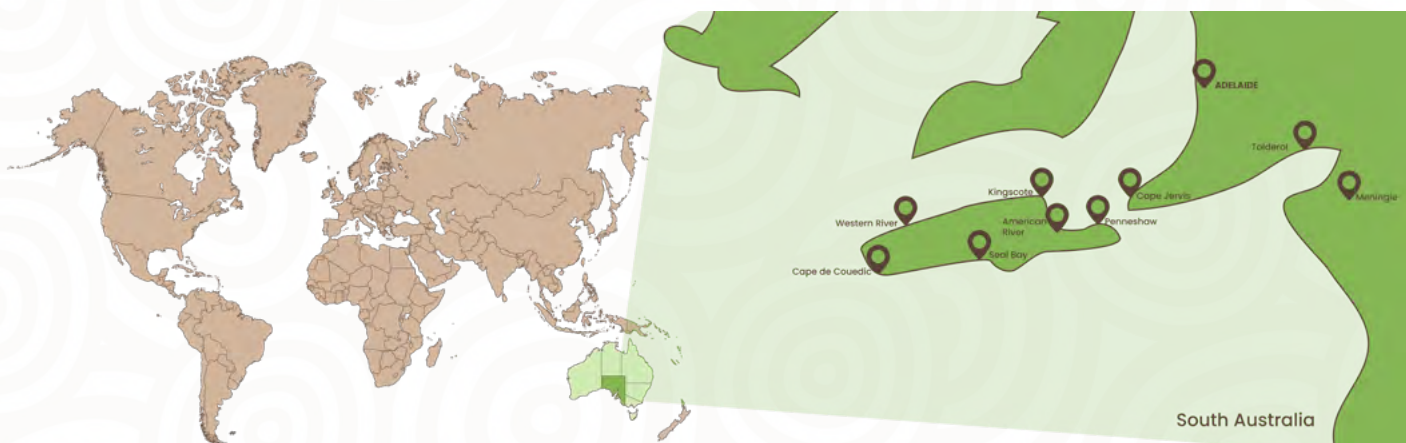
Day 3: 24 September 2027: Flexible morning birding, ferry to the mainland, and Murray Estuary

Day 4: 25 September 2027: Coorong National Park, and return to Adelaide

Day 5: 26 September 2027: Departure or continuation on Highlights of SA Tour

### BOOKING

Please book at: <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings/>.



## COST

### COST

AU\$3,199 per person including accommodation and all meals, based on double or twin-share occupancy. Single occupancy surcharge of AU\$720.

Earlybird discount of AU\$99 for bookings received up to 12 months before departure date. Return client discount may apply.

### INCLUDED

All meals commencing with lunch on Day 1 and finishing with breakfast on Day 5, morning tea/coffee, some snacks, some fruit, some drinks, unlimited drinking water refills. Accommodation in private ensuite rooms where available. Transport using comfortable and reliable vehicle, Expert guiding, any entry fees, taxes.

### EXCLUDED

Travel to & from departure and finish points, pre- & post trip accommodation, any meals before lunch on Day 1 and after breakfast on Day 5, drinks except where provided, personal expenses, tips, insurance.

### PRE & POST TOUR OPTIONS

This tour links with our **Highlights of South Australia Tour** (<https://bellbirdtours.com/highlights-of-southern-australia/>) commencing that same morning of 26 September 2027 in Adelaide. This exciting tour specifically concentrates on the many specialties of the southern regions of Australia, parts of the out-back and the great inland rivers. An optional extension to Tasmania is also available.

### DISCLAIMERS

(1) itinerary may be modified slightly due to factors such as availability of accommodation, updated information on the state of accommodation, roads, or birding sites, the discretion of the guides and other factors; (2) until we've received your final payment, tour price may be subject to adjustment in the event of significant cost increases in ground arrangements. See our Terms and Conditions: <https://bellbirdtours.com/terms-and-conditions/>.

### BOOKING

Please book at: <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings/>.

## PRACTICAL DETAILS

### LEADERS

David Kowalick.

### DIFFICULTY

Low level of fitness required. The tour has a relaxed pace, and walks are on varying surfaces, from paved roads to sandy or rocky walking trails with some short climbs. We generally walk slowly, with lots of stops. You can opt out of any challenging walks.

### ACCOMMODATION

Private en-suite rooms in hotels or lodges. Standards of the lodgings are generally very comfortable. Expect slow, if any, wi-fi access.

### CLOTHING

Lightweight long pants, t-shirt and long-sleeved shirt, over the top of which you can wear layers that can be taken off as necessary, including a jumper / sweater and a wind- and rain-proof jacket.

### WHAT TO BRING

Please travel light. Binoculars, camera, mobile phone, chargers, power adaptors if you're an international guest, insect repellent, sunscreen, personal medications, sun hat, water bottle, hand sanitizer. Sturdy footwear recommended. Scopes, super-telephoto lenses with tripods, and heavy suitcases are discouraged.

### RECOMMENDED READING

The comprehensive (but large and heavy) *Australian Bird Guide* by Danny Rogers, Peter Menkhorst, and Rohan Clarke, or the (smaller and lighter) *Compact Australian Bird Guide* (2022) by the same authors.

## HOW TO BOOK THIS TOUR?

### Step 1: Essential reading

- Download, save and read the itinerary (this document);
- Read our terms and conditions and the release of liability waiver (both can be found on <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/terms-and-conditions>);
- Read our health & safety information page (<https://bellbirdtours.com/health-and-safety/>).

### Step 2: Online booking

Head over to our secure online booking page: <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/bookings> (should you prefer a paper booking form, this can be downloaded from there).

### Step 3: Pay the deposit

To secure your seat, a deposit of 20% of the tour price is required at the time of booking. Full payment is due 60 days prior to the departure date. Until full payment has been received, Bellbird Tours reserves the right to change the tour price (e.g. due to changing fuel prices).

Payment options:

Domestic electronic funds transfer: please send funds to the following bank account:

- bank: Australia & New Zealand Bank (ANZ), 112 Rundle Mall, Adelaide SA 5000
- account name: Bellbird Tours Pty Ltd
- branch no. (BSB) 015-140 and account no. 206136528
  - Please use your surname as the booking reference.

Visa, Mastercard & Google Pay: through Pin Payments (an easy, secure online payment system). They charge us a processing fee of ~3%. Please contact us to use this option, and we'll email you a secure payment link.

International electronic funds transfer: please send funds in Australian Dollars (+ bank charges) to the following bank account:

- international swift code: anzbau3m (no IBAN codes are used in Australia)
- bank: Australia & New Zealand Bank (ANZ), 112 Rundle Mall, Adelaide SA 5000
- account name: Bellbird Tours Pty Ltd
- branch no. (BSB) 015-140 and account no. 206136528
  - If possible, please use your surname as the booking reference.
  - If you are asked to provide our physical address, this is: 101 Chilton Road, Berri, SA 5343, Australia.
  - Please specify AU\$ as the recipient's currency, and the correct amount. Select the option for you to incur any charges at both ends.

Any discrepancy between the amount payable and amount received will be added to the final balance, or payable in cash at the start of the tour. Prices and fees are not negotiable.

### Step 4: You're done!

Sit back and wait for your booking confirmation to arrive (24-48 hrs). Meanwhile, should you have any questions, please contact us via: <https://www.bellbirdtours.com/about-us/>.

## POSSIBLE SPECIES LIST (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)

Emu	Nankeen Night Heron	Red-necked Stint
Australian Brush-turkey	Australasian Bittern	Pectoral Sandpiper
Stubble Quail	Glossy Ibis	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Brown Quail	Australian White Ibis	Curlew Sandpiper
Indian Peafowl	Straw-necked Ibis	Bush Stone-curlew
Blue-billed Duck	Royal Spoonbill	Pied Oystercatcher
Musk Duck	Yellow-billed Spoonbill	Sooty Oystercatcher
Freckled Duck	Osprey	Black-winged Stilt
Black Swan	Black-shouldered Kite	Banded Stilt
Cape Barren Goose	Black Kite	Red-necked Avocet
Australian Shelduck	Whistling Kite	Pacific Golden Plover
Australian Wood Duck	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	Grey Plover
Pacific Black Duck	Spotted Harrier	Red-capped Plover
Australasian Shoveler	Swamp Harrier	Double-banded Plover
Grey Teal	Brown Goshawk	Lesser Sand Plover
Chestnut Teal	Collared Sparrowhawk	Greater Sand Plover
Pink-eared Duck	Wedge-tailed Eagle	Black-fronted Dotterel
Hardhead	Little Eagle	Hooded Plover
Australasian Grebe	Brown Falcon	Red-kneed Dotterel
Hoary-headed Grebe	Australian Hobby	Banded Lapwing
Great Crested Grebe	Black Falcon	Masked Lapwing
Little Penguin	Peregrine Falcon	Great Skua
Flesh-footed Shearwater	Nankeen Kestrel	Pomarine Jaeger
Short-tailed Shearwater	Buff-banded Rail	Arctic Jaeger
Wandering Albatross	Baillon's Crake	Pacific Gull
Royal Albatross	Australian Spotted Crake	Kelp Gull
Black-browed Albatross	Spotless Crake	Silver Gull
Shy Albatross	Purple Swamphen	Gull-billed Tern
Grey-headed Albatross	Dusky Moorhen	Caspian Tern
Yellow-nosed Albatross	Black-tailed Native-hen	Crested Tern
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	Eurasian Coot	White-fronted Tern
Australasian Gannet	Painted Button-quail	Fairy Tern
Darter	Latham's Snipe	Whiskered Tern
Little Pied Cormorant	Black-tailed Godwit	Rock Dove
Black-faced Cormorant	Bar-tailed Godwit	Spotted Turtle Dove
Pied Cormorant	Whimbrel	Common Bronzewing
Little Black Cormorant	Eastern Curlew	Brush Bronzewing
Great Cormorant	Marsh Sandpiper	Crested Pigeon
Australian Pelican	Common Greenshank	Glossy Black-Cockatoo
White-faced Heron	Wood Sandpiper	Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo
Little Egret	Terek Sandpiper	Gang-gang Cockatoo
Eastern Reef Egret	Common Sandpiper	Galah
White-necked Heron	Ruddy Turnstone	Little Corella
Great Egret	Red Knot	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo
Cattle Egret	Sanderling	Rainbow Lorikeet

Purple-crowned Lorikeet  
Crimson Rosella  
Elegant Parrot  
Rock Parrot  
Pallid Cuckoo  
Fan-tailed Cuckoo  
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo  
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo  
Southern Boobook Owl  
Barn Owl  
Tawny Frogmouth  
Spotted Nightjar  
Australian Owlet-nightjar  
White-throated Needletail  
Fork-tailed Swift  
Laughing Kookaburra  
Sacred Kingfisher  
Rainbow Bee-eater  
Superb Fairy-wren  
Southern Emu-wren  
Spotted Pardalote  
Striated Pardalote  
White-browed Scrubwren  
Shy Heathwren  
Brown Thornbill  
Yellow Thornbill  
Striated Thornbill  
Red Wattlebird

Little Wattlebird  
Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater  
Singing Honeyeater  
White-eared Honeyeater  
Purple-gaped Honeyeater  
White-plumed Honeyeater  
Brown-headed Honeyeater  
White-naped Honeyeater  
Crescent Honeyeater  
New Holland Honeyeater  
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater  
Eastern Spinebill  
White-fronted Chat  
Scarlet Robin  
Flame Robin  
Southern Scrub-Robin  
Hooded Robin  
Western Whipbird  
Rufous Bristlebird  
Golden Whistler  
Grey Shrike-thrush  
Satin Flycatcher  
Restless Flycatcher  
Magpie-lark  
Grey Fantail  
Willie Wagtail  
Black-faced Cuckooshrike  
Masked Woodswallow

White-browed Woodswallow  
Black-faced Woodswallow  
Dusky Woodswallow  
Australian Magpie  
White-winged Chough  
Grey Currawong  
Australian Raven  
Little Raven  
Singing Bushlark  
Skylark  
Richard's Pipit  
House Sparrow  
Red-browed Finch  
Beautiful Firetail  
Diamond Firetail  
European Goldfinch  
Welcome Swallow  
Tree Martin  
Fairy Martin  
Australian Reed-Warbler  
Little Grassbird  
Brown Songlark  
Silvereye  
Bassian Thrush  
Common Blackbird  
Common Starling